SOUTH VIET NAM *In struggle*

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DAZIMINA HANOI
19 Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and other South Viet Nam NFL
Missions in foreign countries

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH COMMENDS SOUTHVIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND PLAF

On March, 16, 1969 President Ho Chi Minh sent his congratulations to the Southvietnamese people and their armed forces for the big victories won recently, in the message addressed to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation:

"Early Spring this year, the armed forces and people of the heroic South have attacked the enemy continuously and everywhere, fighting very well and winning very big victories.

I am very glad to send you my warmest and most intimate congratulations.

The US aggressors have lost heavily. But they have not yet given up their aggressive design and do not want to withdraw their troops from our country yet.

Therefore, we must continue to fight them vigorously and hard, till the US-puppets are completely defeated and South Viet Nam is completely liberated".

EDITORIAL

One-minded, North and South are determined to fight and to win

THE NFL delegation headed by Dr Phung Van Cung, Vice-President of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee has just satisfactorily completed its visit to heroic North Viet Nam. During its sojourn there the delegation lived in at atmosphere imbued with blood-sealed-brothers' affection. That was "In our long journey this is initial meeting under the same roof", as President Ho Chi Minh said to Dr Phung Van Cung who conveyed to him the heart-felt sentiments of the Southvietnamese.

The visit of the NFL delegation has assumed a deep significance. On this occasion North Viet Nam — the great rear — has reiterated its solidarity and determination to join forces with South Viet Nam — the great front. This, once again, confirms President Ho Chi Minh's words: "Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese nation is one. Rivers may run dry, mountains may wear away but this truth shall always remain unchanged".

(Continued on page 4)

EVERYWHERE THERE RAGES THE SURGING FLAME OF THE PLAF ATTACKS

Photo: GPA

Viet Nam is one, the vietnamese nation is one *(page 5)*

On the subject of so - called "private talks" *(page 4)*

A surgical operation *(page 7)*

At the 8th and 9th sessions of Paris Conference

NOTHING CANNOT SHAKE OUR DETERMINATION TO STRUGGLE

AT the 8th session of Paris Conference on March 13, Tran Buu Kiem, head of the delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, delivered his speech, flaying all the slanders and threats of the United States and the Saigon administration.

Tran Buu Kiem laid bare the barbarous acts of the US and puppets in South Viet Nam and their setbacks. He pointed out that *the US aggressive war is getting deeper and deeper into a stalemate. The US wants to create a "position of strength" on the battlefield but the more it fights, the heavier its setbacks. Its threat cannot shake the rock-like determination of the 14 million South Vietnamese people to push their resistance against US aggression, for national salvation through to complete victory.* The charges by the US and the Saigon administration that the South Viet Nam PLAF were "striking at civilians" are but clumsy manoeuvres that cannot deceive sober-minded people in the world. It is clear to everybody that it is precisely to defend the people's lives and property that the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces are resolved to wipe out the US aggressors and their henchmen. And it is precisely for that reason that the people stand shoulder to shoulder with the PLAF in striking the enemy right in their dens.

Tran Buu Kiem denounced the US and the Saigon regime for multiplying terror raids all over South Viet Nam while slandering and threatening the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, for sending B-52s to bomb heavily populated areas close to Saigon, and massively persecuting and arresting townspeople of various strata.

Tran Buu Kiem asked:

Can the US delegate at this conference let us know: what would the American people do if their country were invaded? And how would the Americans act if crimes similar to those being perpetrated in South Viet Nam by the US, puppet and satellite troops were committed right in the United States?"

Tran Buu Kiem asserted:

"Any nation has the sacred duty and inviolable right to strike back at the aggressors so as to defend independence and freedom and safeguard his country. So, why connot the South Vietnamese people exercise their right to self-defence?

Once again, we solemnly declare: so long as the US pursues its aggression against South Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces will continue their attacks on the aggressors' troops and their puppets. We have full right to strike them anywhere on our soil at any moment and on any appropriate scale with any proper means.

That is natural and fully legitimate".

Analyzing the five-point stand of the NFL, Tran Buu Kiem pointed out:

"Thus, the five-point position of the South Viet Nam NFL stresses the fundamental points, political as well as military, with a view to settling the South Viet Nam problem. This position will not only bring peace to South Viet Nam on the basis of the respect for the sacred rights of the South Viet Nam people, and do away with the origin and basis of the US war of aggression in Viet Nam, but it will also ensure for South Viet Nam a political future consistent with the people's interests and aspirations. It lays down the fundamental orientation and the concrete essential conditions for a just political solution to the South Viet Nam issue. This position not only conforms to the interests of the Vietnamese people, but also responds to the legitimate demands of the American people as well as of the peace- and justice-loving people in the world. This is why it has enjoyed the full support of the Vietnamese people, and the approval of the American people and the world's people.

If the US really wants to settle the South Viet Nam problem, it must respect this position. The most important thing is that *the US must totally and unconditionally withdraw its own troops as well as satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and let the South Viet Nam people settle themselves their internal affairs in accordance with the Political Programme of the National Front for Liberation, without foreign interference.* This has been expounded many times by our delegation during the previous sessions As to the Thieu—Ky—Huong administration, which is an instrument of the US aggression, and tries as hard as it can to undermine the search for a just political solution to the South Viet Nam problem, the South Viet Nam people are resolved to overthrow it. The more stubbornly the US clings to this administration, the more clearly it reveals its colonialist visage, and the greater obstacles it raises to this conference.

The PLAF assailing the enemy in a provincial town
Photo: GPA

Once again, we demand that the US renounce its aggressor's position and its policy of "negotiating from a position of strength" so as to enter into serious and useful discussions".

AT the 9th plenary session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam on March 20, Tran Buu Kiem, Head of the NFL delegation, took first the floor.

He recalled, in connection with the 19th anniversary of the Day of Nation-Wide Resistance, the mammoth demonstration by hundreds of thousands of Saigon inhabitants on March 19, 1950 against the call of US warships and aircraft, and to show the Vietnamese people's resolve to fight for independence and freedom.

He denounced the rulers in the United States for not drawing a lesson from its experience 19 years ago and for, on the contrary, making further intervention and pushing up its war of aggression in Viet Nam.

Tran Buu Kiem pointed out that the aggressive policy of the US in Viet Nam has taken the US from one defeat to another, caused it heavy losses in men and money and invited upon it condemnation by the whole world's people. Nevertheless, he continued, the Nixon administration at present continues to step up the war of aggression in South Viet Nam and intensify the massive bombing by B 52 aircraft, taking their fierceness to an unprecedented degree.

He recalled the great exploits of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces and people in having, from February 22 to March 4, 1969, attacked over 400 military positions and nerve organs of the US-puppets, putting out of action 45,000 enemy including 25,000 US and satellite troops.

He stressed that *so long as US persists in pursuing its aggression against South Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese people will continue to fight the US aggressors and their henchmen and have the right to wipe out them in any part of South Viet Nam. This is the sacred, unalianable right of self-defence of the South Vietnamese people.*

He refuted US President Nixon's impudent claim that the Vietnamese people must be held "responsible" for the death of US troops. He pointed out that US aggressor troops had been punished during their raids and massacres against the South Vietnamese people and right in their military bases illegally set up in South Viet Nam. He said: "They have died a useless death for the sake of the dirty war of aggression waged by the US government. Therefore, the US government must bear full responsibility before the American people for the waste of GI's lives".

He exposed the sinister attempt of the US at the Paris Conference to impose upon the South Vietnamese people the US neo-colonialist policy and its puppet regime, attempt which the army of over one million US, puppet and satellite troops has failed to carry through on the South Viet Nam battlefield.

Tran Buu Kiem strongly condemned the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration for frantically repressing the people in South Viet Nam urban areas now demanding independence and peace. He cited the prison terms handed out to many persons, and most recently, the sentence of 10 years of hard labour and 5 years of imprisonment for Buddhist Superior Thich Thien Minh in Saigon. These acts are further exposing the dictatorial, fascist nature of the Thieu-Ky-Huong regime which is rigged up and fostered by the US, he added.

He stressed:

The most essential problem is that the US must withdraw completely and unconditionally US troops and troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam because the presence of those troops on South Viet Nam's territory is a crude violation on South Viet Nam's independence and sovereignty, and a denial by deed of the South Vietnamese people's right of self-determination.

Recalling that the world public and the governments of many countries had voiced their demand for the complete and unconditional withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, Tran Buu Kiem warmly thanked the world's people for their strong support for the Vietnamese people, and sternly criticized the attitude of US President Nixon and the press conference on March 14 in Washington and the US acts of war intensification in South Viet Nam.

Military notebook ★ March 5 to 25, 1969

The PLAF continue to deal heavy blows at the enemy

■ Attacking with infantry and artillery about 1,000 military targets

DEVELOPING their posture of strength and victory and acting continuously on the offensive, in the period from March 5 to 25, 1969, the people and armed forces of South Viet Nam attacked the enemy over the length and breadth of the country, from Quang Tri to Ca Mau.

UPI admits (March 21) that the "Communist troops" have brought their attacks on military bases and towns beyond the 1,000 mark, in their present offensive which has been going on for four weeks. In the French paper *Le Figaro* (March 19) French General Beaufre notes that "the Vietcong offensive has methodically developed since the beginning of this month. In a first stage, it has succeeded in inflicting sizable losses on the Americans."

The outstanding feature of the PLAF attacks and victories over the past period is their repeated and continuous onslaughts on *a whole series of enemy military targets*. Let's quote the following figures mentioned by Western news agencies: March 13: 30 targets attacked; March 14-15: 60; March 16: 65; March 17:35; March 18: 37;. March 21: at least 65...

In spite of all the nonsense mouthed by US Defence Secretary Laird (in a March 20 interview with the Washington Post, he said that the attacks had no military import because they were sporadic and in insignificant number) the fact remains that over the past 20 days, more than 50 American military headquarters — regimental, brigade and division — came under repeated attacks, and hundreds of airfields, port installations, storage depots, big and small, in Long Binh Da Nang, Nha Be, etc. were set afire. In Tay Nguyen, 1,850 stretches of the US oil pipe-line were blown up, and 39 depots with thousands of tons of fuel and war equipment sed ablaze. Under the salvoes of rockets fired by the PLAF, the airfields at Chu Lai, Nuoc Man, Quang Ngai, Nha Trang, Kontum, Dakto, Cam Ranh... and military port installations at Cua Viet, Son Tra, Saigon, Nha Be.., were turned into oceans of flames.

Over the past 20 days, the PLAF continued to destroy much of the enemy's vital strength, particularly that of the Americans. *They hit vigorously and accurately at many American infantry units and inflicted heavy losses on them.* The American paper *International Herald Tribune* writes (Mach 13): "The Communists have achieved their targets in their present offensive in South Viet Nam. More important still, they have caused heavy American casualties."

Writing about the posture of strength and the initiative held by the PLAF, military observers have noted the following features:

—Many provincial capitals, district centres and military bases have been attacked again and again. Following the Feb.22-23 onslaught of the PLAF, the enemy's towns and cities saw their defences greatly "toughened." Mopping-up raids were conducted within the framework of General Abrams's "clear and hold" strategy, which calls for "police operations", "mop-ups", "blocking operations", "operations aimed at forestalling VC preparations", etc. B.52 bombers engaged in frantic activities : within 12 hours on March 17, they dropped 2,200 tons of bombs on three areas in South Viet Nam : the Quang Tin provincial capital was attacked eight times, that of Quang Ngai three times, that of Kien Tuong four times, that of My Tho four and that of Ben Tre five times...

At Ben Tranh near Dau Tieng (Thu Dau Mot province) in particular, three American combat groups sustained three devastating attacks in the period from Feb.22 to March 22. Casualties increased with each onslaught: in the third attack in particular, the Americans lost 700 killed, 16 mortars destroyed, 20 military vehicles blown up, and 3 planes shot down.

PLAF rockets have continued to fall on the First, Second, Third and Fourth wards of Saigon, the main lair of the enemy, defended by 123 infantry battalions over a depth of 50 kilometres.

As for Da Nang, it has not stopped being attacked since Feb. 27. On the night of March 20-21, heavy PLAF artillery barrages fell on the Marines airfield at Nuoc Man, the HQ of the First Marine Division west of the city, and the Chu Lai airfield.

—Decisive engagements have taken place in which vital enemy strength has been quickly destroyed. Typical of these is the one in Bien Hoa, in which the PLAF annihilated one whole battalion of Thai mercenaries, on March 16. It was the second Thai battalion destroyed within a period of 16 days. In an attack on the Third Brigade, First Airmobile Division, in Tay Ninh, the PLAF put out of action two whole American companies. In a single battle in Binh Dinh (March 8) over 400 Pak Jung Hee mercenaries were annihilated.

— Many attacks have been launched on enemy - strategic communication lines, troop and supply truck convoys and trains. The enemy, driven into passivity, has been unable to send relief troops to units under attack. In Tay Nguyen, within the period of March 2 to 8 alone, all communication lines (Highways 14, 18, 19, 21...) were fiercely and repeatedly attacked; more than 1,600 enemy troops were put out of action and 327 vehicles destroyed.

Over the past period, close coordination has taken place between the three categories of PLAF troops (regulars, regionals and guerillas), between political struggle (winning power, making away with cruel thugs, breaking the enemy's grip) and armed struggle.

The regionals and guerillas have been especially active in Tay Nguyen, Central Trung Bo and Central Nam Bo. UPI admits (March 13) that the NFL has won control over another 350,000 people in rural areas, perhaps even more.

Over the same period, shaken by the vigorous, continuous and concerted onslaughts of the PLAF, many US and puppet units have protested against the war or deserted. The number of GIs or puppet soldiers who have "vanished" is on the increase : on Mach 7, the Special Forces at Ca Tam mutinied and deserted; on March 9, the 897th militia company at Dakto refused to take part in an operation; within the first ten days of March, in Central Nam Bo more than 2,700 puppet marines deserted. On March 7 and 10, at Binh Duc and My tho, many American GIs of the 9th Division refused to obey orders and take part in military operations.

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World opinion is unanimous in recognising the skill in battle and the big victories of the heroic people and armed forces of South Viet Nam in their recent vigorous and continuous attacks on the enemy. The Americans themselves and their puppets have had to admit that their casualties and material losses have been on the increase ever since the first PLAF blow, struck in the period from Feb. 22 to 28. The onslaughts staged by the people and armed forces of South Viet Nam have shaken the enemy's defences in depth and driven the US "clear and hold" strategy, in essence already a passive one, all the more into an impasse. The British paper The Observer (March 2), remarks that once again the "Vietcong" have proved their ability to attack anywhere and at any time, and that the assertions by the Saigon regime and the Americans that the war has been proceeding favourably for them have been exploded.

HA DUY PHUOC

Facing rain, slippery paths and heavy ammunition loads, the PLAF keep moving along to seek and fight the enemy troops.

A unit of artillery women has been overwhelming US-puppets with firestorms

Photos : GPA

ON THE SUBJECT OF SO-CALLED "PRIVATE TALKS"

A spokesman for the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation issued a statement laying bare the US–puppets' proposal for "private talks". The statement (on March 27, 1969) released by GPA, said:

"US President Nixon on March 25, 1969 said that 'private talks' are needed to peacefully settle the Viet Nam issue. At the same time in Saigon, Nguyen Van Thieu also declared that he was ready to have 'private talks' with the South Viet Nam NFL.

In this connection the spokesman of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee declares the following:

1. Heavily defeated in its war of aggression in Viet Nam and strongly opposed by the world public and progressive opinion in the United States, the US has had to stop unconditionally the bombing and shelling of the entire territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and to sit down at the four-party conference in Paris for a political settlement of the Viet Nam question. Since February this year, US, satellite and puppet troops have been repeatedly attacked by the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces everywhere on the South Viet Nam battlefield, and have sustained heavier and heavier losses. Yet, the US remains very stubborn.

The US is stepping up to a very high degree of fierceness its attacks on villages and towns in South Viet Nam with bombing raids and 'accelerated pacification" operations, thus piling up loathsome crimes against the South Vietnamese people. It has even sent US Marines deep into the territory of Laos, and is threatening to extend hostilities to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The US is seeking ways and means to maintain and bolster up the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration, using it for downright repression of the Buddhist movement, and to crack down on the movement in the towns to demand the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique and the setting up of a 'peace cabinet' willing to talk with the NFL for a settlement of the South Viet Nam issue.

Obviously, the US is losing. Yet, it is trying to cling to South Viet Nam and maintain the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration, in the hope of carrying through its neo-colonialist policy in South Viet Nam, and prolonging the partition of Viet Nam. It is with this scheme in mind that so far the representatives of the US and the puppet administration at all the nine plenary sessions of the conference in Paris have evaded discussion of the key problem, which is the complete and unconditional withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam. Because of this, the Paris Conference has made no progress at all,

2. President Nixon says 'private talks' are "the only way" to settle the Viet Nam issue. The Nixon administration claims it wants an end to the war. Yet, it does not want to withdraw unconditionally all the aggressor armies of the US and its satellites from South Viet Nam. It also says that it respects the South Vietnamese people's right of self-determination, while in fact it is clinging to the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique the overthrow of which is being demanded by the South Vietnamese people. It speaks of its 'desire for peace', but in fact it is seeking a 'position of strength' for the Saigon puppet administration to secure "permanent control" over South Viet Nam. Though repeatedly attacked by the PLAF right in its dens, the Nguyen Van Thieu stooge administration keeps demanding the "dissolution" of the NFL. The decisive question is not to talk this way or that way, but whether or not the Nixon administration wants to put an end to its aggression against Viet Nam, whether or not it wants to withdraw unconditionally all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

The US-puppets' proposal for 'private talks' between the Saigon puppet administration and the NFL is but a cunning move to camouflage the bellicose and obdurate attutide of the US and to hoodwink the world's people and progressive public in the United States now demanding the Nixon administration to put an early end to the war of aggression in Viet Nam.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation energetically denounces to the public at home and abroad that bellicose attitude and deceitful move of the Nixon administration. Again, it reaffirms that the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration is nothing short of a gang of traitors and anti-popular elements, who serve as an instrument for aggression of the US imperialists and do not represent any one. The NFL firmly believes that the peace- and justice- loving people all over the world and the progressive people in the US will sternly condemn the US-puppets for stepping up the war and delaying the settlement of the Viet Nam issue.

3. The stand of the Vietnamese people is the five points proposed by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the four points of the DRVN Government. It is the basis for a correct solution to the Viet Nam question, because it is consonant to the basic principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, to the reality in Viet Nam at present, and to the interests and aspirations of the American people and the peace-loving peoples in the world. It is with a serious attitude that the NFL delegation has come to Paris to bring together with the other parties the conference to positive results. If the Nixon administration keeps clinging to South Viet Nam and the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, if it does not want to withdraw unconditionally all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and if it does not truly respect the basic national rights of the Vietnamese people and the South Vietnamese people's right of self-determination, no form of talks whatever can lead to a settlement of the Viet Nam issue. The US must bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising from its obstructing the Paris Conference on Viet Nam".

editorial

One-Minded...

(Continued from page 1)

OUR people thoughout the country have registered repeated very great and brilliant victories. The American aggressors have incurred successive heavy defeats in both North and South. Nevertheless, far from giving up their aggressive design on the South, they still stubbornly stick to their stand and try to gloss over the total and unconditional withdrawal of US and satellite troops. They are bending energies on the consolidation of the puppet army and administration and striving to maintain traitors in their pay as an instrument for the realization of neo-colonialism. While making endless pronouncements about peace, the Yankees are actually speeding up their aggressive war in South Viet Nam in an attempt to build up a "position of strength". At the same time as their ground troops push up "mopping-up operations", massacring innocent people, carpet-bombing by B'52s, poison-chemical-spraying virtually in all rural and mountain regions, arrests and fascist repression in urban centres have become daily occurrences. In North Viet Nam, on the other hand, US aircraft carry on reconnaissance missions, and savage bombings in a number of areas.

In this situation US President Nixon and the quisling Nguyen Van Thieu recently made loud utterances about so-called "private talks". This is in fact nothing but a smokescreen used by the Nixon administration to cover up its stubbornness and bellicosity, appose progressive Americans and the people as a whole, and prolong the stalemate caused by at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

The obdurate stand of the US aggressors, their intensification of the war, and perfidious manoeuvres constitute an insolent challenge to the thirty-one million Vietnamese, to progressive Americans and peace-and justice-loving people the world over. So long as the US continues aggression against South Viet Nam, perpetrates crimes in South and North Viet Nam the entire Vietnamese people will deal them well-deserved blows. That is our sacred self-defence right. The US which has sent American and satellite troops to South Viet Nam to invade it and cause sufferings to its people, must end aggression and unconditionally pull out all these troops. So long as aggressor troops remain in Viet Nam, the Vietnamese people will continue their fight to wipe them out.

We are deeply attached to peace, a genuine peace that goes hand in hand with true independence and liberty. The position of the Vietnamese people for a settlement of the Vietnamese problem is the four points of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the five points of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. This is the basis for a correct political solution to the Vietnamese problem, which is consistent with the basic principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and the real situation in Viet Nam at present.

The world peoples, including the American people, who have always sympathized with and strongly backed the struggle of the South Vietnamese people under the banner of the National Front for Liberation, banner of a great cause, are rejoicing at and applauding their victories, and sternly condemning the stubborn stand of aggression of the US administration. The honourable way-out for the US is to accept the NFL five-point stand, to unconditionally withdraw all American and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and let its people settle themselves their own affairs without foreign interference. By persisting in its aggressive enterprise the US cannot but suffer heavier defeat.

NOTHING can hinder the determination of a united and one-minded people to fight and to win.

The NFL delegation's visit to North Viet Nam has come as a momentous encouragement for the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam. To respond to the NFL Central Committee's appeal, prove worthy of the affection and confidence of President Ho Chi Minh and their seventeen million Northern follow-countrymen, just as to carry into effect the words of President Ho Chi Minh: How happy we are before the reunion between North and South! Armed forces and people of South Viet Nam are resolved to rush forward on the impetus of their successes and strike stronger, sharper blows until complete victory over the US aggressors and their puppets.

The Vietnamese people will win.

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

VIET NAM IS ONE...

(Excerpts from the Communique issued on March 20, 1969 on NFL delegation's visit to North Viet Nam)

I

HISTORY has proved that in all respects Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese nation is one. Over the past 15 years, the US imperialists have sabotaged the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, hindered the reunification of Viet Nam, rigged up in South Viet Nam what they call the "Republic of Viet Nam" and a stooge puppet administration. Their scheme is to turn South Viet Nam into an American military base and neo-colony and prolong the partition of our country.

But the South Vietnamese people have made innumerable sacrifices and surmounted countless hardships, unceasingly struggled with marvellous valiancy, and have foiled all perfidious manoeuvres of the US and puppets, especially since the birth of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation in 1960. After failing in their "special war", the US imperialists have sent more than half a million US expeditionary troops and together with satellite and puppet troops are waging an aggression against South Viet Nam. At the same time, they have used air and naval forces to bombard the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, placing the Vietnamese people in a state of war in the whole country. This is an extremely blatant violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and all international law. *The entire Vietnamese nation, millions as one man, has stood up with the determination to fight and defeat the US imperialist aggressors. All Vietnamese people have the right to go to any place of their fatherland where there is the enemy to fight him: that is the sacred right to self-defence of the Vietnamese people. Since the US has provoked war and launched an aggression, it must end the war, stop the aggression. So long as there remains an alien aggressor on our soil, our people must continue to fight and wipe him out.*

The past 15 years are 15 years of excessively hard fighting and also 15 years of extremely glorious victories of the heroic South Vietnamese people. Under the correct leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the South Vietnamese people have dealt at the US and puppets telling blows, especially in the high tide of general offensive and simultaneous uprisings started early in Spring last year, thus upsetting the strategic position of the enemy and driving them deeper and deeper into a defensive and passive position.

The continual, widespread and ever stronger attacks launched by the South Viet Nam armed forces and people since February 23, 1969 prove that they have been bringing into full play the tremendous victory of the past year of general offensive and uprising and that they are holding the control of the South Viet Nam battlefield.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation enjoys absolute political supremacy, possesses mighty armed and political forces, controls vast liberated areas, and is actually playing the role of a State with an ever firmer revolutionary administrative system and an ever higher prestige in the world arena. The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people. The birth of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces headed by Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao has marked a new development of the front of great nation-wide unity against US aggression, for national salvation.

Through their fight against US aggression, for national salvation, the South Vietnamese people have not only defeated all military and political schemes of the US imperialist aggressors and their lackeys in South Viet Nam, but also made a very important contribution to defeating the war of destruction of the US imperialists against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and defending socialist North Viet Nam.

With their ardent patriotism and deep love for socialism, the North Vietnamese people, united as a steel-like bloc, and resolved to defy all hardships and sacrifices, have greatly endeavoured in both production and fighting and returned to the US imperialists due punishing blows, thus defeating their war of destruction, fulfilling the task of the big rear area toward the big front line and defending the revolutionary fruit which our people have gained since the general uprising in August 1945.

The fact that the US has had to unconditionally cease its bombardment on the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam after four years piling up monstrous crimes against the North Vietnamese people and five months hindering the progress of the Paris talks, marks a big victory of the Vietnamese people in both zones. That is also a big victory for the socialist camp, the national liberation movement and the peace movement, a big victory for the people the world over including the progressive people in the US.

On behalf of the South Vietnamese people, the delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has expressed deep gratitude to President Ho Chi Minh, the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the National Assembly and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and all the compatriots in North Viet Nam who have, in the past 15 years, and every hour, every minute, taken care of and stimulated and encouraged the South Vietnamese people, and constantly reserved for them a devoted and all-round assistance for the sake of South Viet Nam kith-and-kin and the glorious Fatherland.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, and the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation once again express their profound gratitude to the Soviet Union, China and the other brotherly socialist countries for their great and effective support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's fight against US aggression, for national salvation. They express deep gratitude to the Government and people of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Laotian Patriotic Front and the Laotian people for their constant sympathy with and strong support to the Vietnamese people in their fight against the US imperialist aggressors — the common enemy of the three nations. They warmly hail and sincerely thank the governments and peoples of the peace- and justice-loving countries, and the progressive organizations and personalities in the world for their sympathy with and valuable support for the Vietnamese people's fight against US aggression, for national salvation.

II

THE Vietnamese people earnestly love peace but this must be a genuine peace associated with real independence and freedom. The stand of the Vietnamese people on the settlement of the Viet Nam problem is the four points of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the five points of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. This is the basis for a correct political solution to the Viet Nam issue, conforming to the fundamental principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, and to the present practical situation in Viet Nam.

Though sustaining heavy defeats, the US still evades the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, in an attempt to drag on a military and political see-saw position, maintain and consolidate the stooge puppet administration, cling to the latter and make it a tool to realize US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam and prolong the division of Viet Nam.

While preventing the Paris Conference from reaching a correct political solution to the Viet Nam problem, the US pursues its criminal aggressive war in Viet Nam. It is increasing attacks on South Viet Nam villages and towns by utterly barbarous bombings, thus piling up more crimes against the South Vietnamese people. At the same time, the US continues infringing upon the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and has on many occasions conducted blatant bombings, by B-52s included, on many localities from Nghe An to Vinh Linh.

Besides, the US has arrogantly dispatched troops to attack Laos territory heedless of the 1962 Geneva Agreements of which it is a signatory, and has repeatedly used aircraft to encroach upon the territory of the Kingdom of Cambodia and massacre people there.

The acts of war intensification and the stubborn attitude of the US have laid bare the deceptiveness of its talks about its "good will", about its "respect" for peace and "respect" for the right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people. That is also an insolent challenge to the progressive people in the United States and to the peace and justice-loving people in the world. If the US ruling circles persist in prolonging and intensifying the war in Viet Nam, they will only invite upon themselves heavier defeats. The "honourable" way out for the US is to stop its war of aggression, and let the South Vietnamese people settle their own affairs in accordance with the Political Program of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation; the key-problem is that the US must withdraw completely and unconditionally the US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

So long as the US continues its aggression against Viet Nam, the Vietnamese people will continue to fight till there is not a single aggressor left on the Vietnamese soil.

The delegation of the South Viet Nam NFL solemnly assures President Ho Chi Minh — esteemed leader of the whole nation — the National Assembly, the Government of the DRVN, and the beloved compatriots in the North that South Viet Nam in all circumstances remains staunch with their iron-like determination to accomplish most fully their sacred obligation, *namely to drive out the US aggressors, liberate the South defend the North and advance toward the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland,* and in the immediate future, to carry on their continuous attacks and uprisings, to thwart the aggressive will of the US imperialists, to overthrow the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet clique and to obtain still greater victories.

The DRVN Government and the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front once again reaffirm to their compatriots in the South the resolve of all their kith-and-kin in the North to build a solid and strong North Viet Nam, stand ready to smash all new adventurous military schemes and acts of the US and its flunkeys against the North, do their best to fulfil the sacred tasks of the great rear base towards the great front.

On this occasion, President Ho Chi Minh has cordially commended and expressed his boundless affection toward the people and fighters of the South. He has particularly praised the brilliant victories won by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people early this Spring.

President Ho Chi Minh, Vice-President Ton Duc Thang, the National Assembly and the Government of the DRVN and the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front have requested the NFL delegation to convey their cordial greetings to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, and the members of the NFL Central Committee, to Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao and the members of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, and to the other patriotic forces who have been shouldering, together with the South Viet Nam NFL, the glorious national task of fighting the US aggression and saving the country.

THE VIETNAMESE NATION IS ONE

THE US—PUPPETS MULTIPLY THEIR CRIMES

THE Committee to Denounce War Crimes committed by the US imperialists and their Henchmen in South Viet Nam in a recent statement condemned the US imperialists' crimes during the past 14 years of aggression against South Viet Nam and especially since November 1968 when the US had to declare the unconditional cessation of the bombardments on the whole territory of the DRVN and take part in the four-party Conference in Paris.

The statement said:

"Only a short time after coming to power, the Nixon administration dispatched 3,000 additional troops to South Viet Nam and ordered the Thailand authorities to send there 1,500 more mercenaries. It has instructed the Saigon puppet administration to push ahead the draft and armed puppet troops with modern weapons and war means. US Defence Secretary Melvin Laird on March 9 declared the US would increase its military budget in South Viet Nam. The stooge administration's war budget 1969 jumped up by 20 per cent as compared with 1968."

Dealing with the "accelerated pacification" program, the statement gave the following facts:

"In November and December 1968, the US and its puppets mobilized nearly 6 divisions of the regular army and 174 companies of the regional forces to raid Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, levelling to the ground 180 hamlets. In the coastal areas of Thua Thien alone, 13,000 inhabitants were herded into concentrationcamps.

From January 13 to February 3, 8,200 US, puppet and satellite troops raided the Ba Lang An peninsula in Quang Ngai province, burning all the houses and property of the local population and driving 11,000 people, mostly aged men, women and children, into concentration camps.

The statement drew special attention to the US indiscriminate bombardments on the whole territory of South Viet Nam, even on populous areas surrounding the cities and towns.

It said:

As reported by AFP on February 25, within 12 days, B.52s dropped 17,000 tons of bombs on Saigon's vicinity. UPI on February 22, 1969 revealed that the B.52 raids had inflicted very heavy casualties on the civilians. Since November 1, 1968, the US had daily sent over 190,000 sorties of B.52s, jet bombers and helicopters to bomb and strafe South Viet Nam population. On December 26, 1968, the US dropped on South Viet Nam a number of 10,000-pound bombs the biggest kind of demolition bombs ever used in any war. On February 26,1969, the US sent 20 planes of various kinds to bomb, rocket and spray toxic chemicals on Thai Hiep village in Bien Hoa province, destroying over 1,000 houses including a church and a school. Among 2,700 Catholic inhabitants of the village, many were killed or wounded in the church and the school.

After strongly denouncing the US-puppets' repression of towns people by declaring "the state of war" and enacting the fascist law 10/68, the statement said:

"Since November 1968, dozens of newspapers have been closed down, thousands of people who desire peace, independence and neutrality have been jailed. Superior Thich Thien Minh was put to trial simply because he had stated the Buddhists' desire for peace. On the Christmas Eve of 1968, savage repression was ordered against the torch parade of Saigon youths, students and pupils. From February 23 to 25, the Hoa Hao believers in Tan Chau, Chau Phu and An Phu districts, An Giang province, were subjected to US indiscriminate bombings and shellings when they were celebrating the Spring Festival for peace. Many members of student and pupil organizations and of trade-unions have been kidnapped."

The statement went on:

"The bloody crimes perpetrated by the US and their lackeys in South Viet Nam as well as its obduracy and hypocrisy at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam has laid bare the fact that the US still intensifies its war of aggression against South Viet Nam and tries to foster the puppet army and puppet administration to make them a tool for the materialization of neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam."

The statement denounced these crimes of the US puppets and called on public opinion at home and abroad, including the American public, to sternly condemn and take necessary measures to stop the bloody hands of the US imperialists and to demand that the US withdraw unconditionally all its troops and the troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam and let the South Vietnamese people settle their own affairs in accordance with the NFL Political Program, without US interference.

SUPERIOR THICH DON HAU:

This was act of brutal repression against religion

Superior Thich Don Hau, former Chief Representative of Viet Nam Unified Buddhism of Van Hanh Area and Thua Thien Union, and currently Vice-President of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, has issued a statement vehemently protesting the arrest by the puppet administration of Superior Thich Thien Minh in Saigon, according to GPA.

The statement said:

This was another act of brutal repression by the Saigon administration against religion.

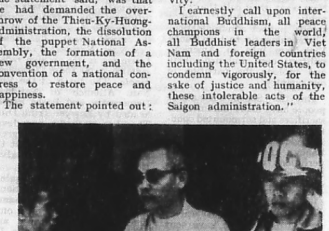
The charge made against Superior Thich Thien Minh, the statement said, was that he had demanded the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong-administration, the dissolution of the puppet National Assembly, the formation of a new government, and the convention of a national congress to restore peace and happiness.

The statement pointed out:

"The repression by the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique of Buddhist leaders and the Buddhist youths was aimed at checking the entire people's patriotic movement for independence and peace.

In my capacity as a representative of patriotic Buddhists in the VNANDPF, I strongly protest and denounce to the public at home and abroad the illegal anti-religion acts of the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration as mentioned above. I firmly demand the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration to release immediately Superior Thich Thien Minh and all the Buddhist youths now in captivity.

I earnestly call upon international Buddhism, all peace champions in the world, all Buddhist leaders in Viet Nam and foreign countries including the United States, to condemn vigorously, for the sake of justice and humanity, these intolerable acts of the Saigon administration."



Superior Thich Thien Minh conveyed to the military tribunal

He that sows the wind...

ON the verge of complete fiasco the US aggressors and their henchmen are perpetrating countless crimes against the people of South Viet Nam in general, and the urban population in particular.

In recent months, they have stepped up the bombing and shelling of populated areas in over ninety cities, provincial capitals and townships. Right in Saigon, enforcing the so-called 10-68 law they have mobilized nearly hundred regular battalions and thousands upon thousands of security cops for round-the-clock searches and «police action». All this has created a climate of terror and endless tension especially for priests and nuns and intellectuals who demand a peaceful solution to the South Vietnamese problem. The «quisling authorities» who charge them with "procommunist activities" arrogate to themselves "the right to sacrifice those citizens" (AFP, Feb. 15).

After the February 3 teach-in of some two hundred intellectuals and leading religious believers in Saigon, the puppet president Nguyen Van Thieu stated at Go Cong. "We shall die because of those men, but we must make them die before us" (AFP, Feb. 6). Then, on his order, Superior Thich Thien Minh, leader of the Buddhist youth movement, was arrested, tried on March 15 and 17, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment and ten years' hard labour. Eleven of the fifty apprehended members of the movement drew from two years' emprisonment, five years' solitary confinement to twenty years' hard labour.

Meanwhile, the Saigon authorities keep in custody hundreds of people, among them many intellectuals, without examining their case. An Quang Pagoda and Quang Duc House were the object of repeated searches. Reverend Thich Huyen Quang, Secretary General of the Buddhist Unified Association (of the An Quang tendency) was summoned to the Police Department for interrogation, and intimidated. Buddhist leaders were asked in a communiqué issued lately to cut down the number of their ceremonies (Reuter, March 12). The Saigon administration went so far as to close down Giac Hai Dao, also of the An Quang tendency, on the ground that the paper «had published articles in protest of the March 15, 1969 sentence passed on Mr Do Xuan Hang» that is, Superior Thich Thien Minh (Radio Saigon, March 19).

Repeated threats and terroristic repressions by the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration, particularly the trial of Superior Thich Thien Minh and young Buddhists by the military tribunal, have further fermented Buddhist opposition. Buddhist leaders called on their fellow-believers to exhibit their attitude in of the US-puppets' fascist actions.

In successive statements and press conferences held at An Quang Pagoda, they reaffirmed that "Buddhist followers are ready to die for the happiness of their countrymen, for the peace cause". They called attention to the fact that "the Americans owned everything either directly or indirectly in Viet Nam, and as such they were responsible for everything that happened" (Reuter, March 16). They condemned the Nguyen Van Thieu administration for pursuing Diem's program, the destruction of Buddhism by a variety of savage means (AP, March 16)

So as to soothe the protest movement, Thieu Ky Huong ordered on March 18 that "Special treatment" be given to "the Buddhist leader Thich Thien Minh". This demagogic measure has not enabled them to prevent the exacerbation of the struggle for the restoration of peace and the rescinding of the illegal sentence against Superior Thich Thien Minh and the young Buddhists.

In parallel to the repression of the Buddhist movement the Yankee aggressors and their henchmen are using secret agents and cruel thugs to kidnap members of trade-union and student organizations, whom they accuse of "acting in support of the Viet Cong" (AFP, Feb. 28). Their crimes against the town folk of South Viet Nam have accumulated over the years. On March 20 AP (March 10) quoted the Secretary General of the Buddhist Association abroad as saying that in the urban areas of South Viet Nam 200,000 people, among them many Catholics, Buddhists and members of various trade-unions had been jailed. This figure, though far below the actual one, to a degree reflects the US cruel policy and the stifling atmosphere springing from the anti-democratic Saigon regime at present.

The afore cited crimes are a serious challenge to the urban and the whole population of South Viet Nam. Contrary to the expectation of the Yankees and their lakeys, they will not in the least help them stabilize their fast-deteriorating situation. They will, instead, deepen the hatred of our fellow-countrymen and fan the flames of their struggle. The Committee for Denouncing the US-puppets' crimes in South Viet Nam pointed out in its statement of March 15, 1969: "As the United States and its henchmen continue to intensify the war of aggression, trample upon their fundamental rights and commit evermore serious genocidal crimes, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces reserve for themselves the right to deliver them due counter-blows".

PHAN HUU

A surgical operation

(To american friends who are struggling against the dirty war in Viet Nam)

(Continued)

AGAIN there was silence in the underground operating-room. The electrical operator slowly buttoned his coat. The young nurse was cleaning shining surgical instruments. The hospital director walked back and forth. After a while he added:

"This Black GI is named JB and was a Californian docker before he was drafted. He was very poor. In his pocket he always carries a small notebook where he keeps a record of small sums of money, his savings, he sends every month to his wife back home. He carefully saves every dollar he makes, and neither drinks nor smokes. As a soldier in the US army of aggression, he is our enemy. But he lives in a society now under the rule of the American capitalists, and thus finds himself in the same situation as we are. The capitalists exploited him harshly and finally forced him to go to war to bring them even more profits. And so, unlike a White capitalist, he is not our enemy. By saving his life we shall not only soothe the sorrow of his mother, wife and children, but we shall have demonstrated the good will of the Vietnamese working class towards the American working people who, together with American progressives, are struggling for peace in Viet Nam. At the same time we show our esteem and affection for the American Blacks whom the racists oppress and despise. Thousands of American mothers, millions of American people will understand our just struggle, grow consciousness of their responsibilities, and will not allow the American capitalists to draft their sons and brothers for the war in Viet Nam. They will stand up to oppose this dirty war of aggression."

The hospital director looked at the surgeon, hoping for a word or gesture of approval. But the surgeon avoided his gaze and said with great effort:

"I understand and approve of everything you've said, but nevertheless I am afraid I won't be able to operate on him. Like you, I can never forget that in this same room a month ago, my friend Doctor Nguyen Van Tru and Comrade Lê Quang Châu, a skilful anesthetist, were killed by American bombs. Every time I takes the scalpel, I see in my mind's eye Tru standing in front of me and urging me to do my utmost to save the lives of our wounded fighters so that they may go back to the front to avenge him and other comrades. If I wore to save the life of an American soldier in this very place where friends of mine were killed by American bombs and with assistants roused by this same hatred, I would not be able to perform the operation adequately..."

The hospital director answered in a moved voice:

"I could order you to perform the operation, putting my trust in your sense of discipline as a member of the Liberation forces. But so long as your anger against the American aggressors has not abated, I am afraid your task could not be carried through. In our profession, the least mistake or inadvertence — a bubble in a vein, or a few drops of ether too many — may kill the patient. When they took prisoner that American, our soldiers at the front had to overcome a feeling of hatred a hundred times deeper than what we feel here. They saw with their own eyes their comrades killed or wounded. American bombs and shells were being showered on them and might kill them at any moment. Yet, because they were bent on carrying out the policy of the Front and were thinking of American mothers, wives and children and also of American progressives who were supporting our struggle, they surmounted a thousand obstacles and brought that American prisoner back here. I hope that you will follow their example and overcome your personal feelings to fulfil your task."

He walked towards the exit, but stopped halfway and said in a worried voice, "A few hours' delay and the American will have very little chance left. All the efforts of our fighters at the front will have been lost."

The surgeon started as if he had received an electric shock. In a flash he saw in his mind's eye the repentant look of an American Black soldier, the sorrowful face of an American mother, the stern gaze of a Liberation soldier, the gentle features of Doctor Tru... Thinking of his responsibilities, of the operation to be performed and of all the subsequent care to the patient, he shook his head as if to drive away all erroneous thoughts.

"No," he said," we have no right to let that American die."

The nurse glanced at the electrical operator and both came up to the surgeon. Moved by the hospital director's words, they now came to a decision after hearing those of the doctor. Encouraged by the resolve shown on their faces, the latter turned to his chief and said in a firm voice, All right, comrade Director, your order will be carried out."

Turning to his assistants, he gently added, "Comrades, get ready for an operation on the skull. We'll start in 15 minutes."

The nurse lighted the stove for the sterilization of the instruments. The electrical operator straddled his bike and gave a few turns of the pedals to see if the generator was in order.

The voice of the director was heard, "Comrades, bring the patient in."

Four Liberation soldiers whose sweat-stained uniforms seemed to smell still of gunpowder brought into the cave a wounded American soldier lying on a stretcher. The nurse, with their help, put him on the operating table and covered his face with a white linen. The American was wearing the green uniform of the US army with two badges, one showing a black eagle and the other a flash of lightning, the sign of the US 25th Infantry Division, nicknamed "Tropical Lightning".

Suddenly whistle blows sounded the alert. The light went out. Two big explosions shook the cave. Trees fell in a crash. The wounded man stirred.

A moment later, everything was calm again. The light returned. The patient was anesthetized and the operation began.

THE moon had risen in the sky and its silvery beams shone through the foliage of the trees. In the cave, the monotonous hum of a drill was heard, mingled with reports, now distant, now quite close, of American artillery.

Suddenly, the surgeon gave an exclamation and handed a small metallic object to the hospital director: a tiny shell splinter found in the wound of the GI.

After a long moment, the two doctors went out of the cave and took off their gowns and gloves. The moon had risen quite high and a gentle breeze was blowing.

Four Liberation soldiers carried a stretcher past on which the American soldier was lying.

"J.B. has had a narrow escape," said the surgeon. "I am sure he will never again turn his gun on us."

The hospital director nodded: "And thousands of American soldiers will side with us and demand an end to this dirty war of aggression."

Heath-cocks crowed. Dawn broke.

Written at Military Hospital 77A

DINH PHONG

MEDICAL SERVICE MAKES PROGRESS

Hundreds of doctors, middle-level physicians and hospital attendants in the southern part of the **High Plateaux** have been formed into mobile medical teams to serve the armed forces, war suppliers, and the people in areas around provincial capitals and towns.

The GPA said that the civilian medical service in the region has trained 192 middle-level physicians and pharmacy workers including 42 of minority nationalities, and organized a medical network in the districts and villages.

Much effort has been made to prepare drugs from local medicinal herbs.

The people's medical service has also made much progress in other liberated areas. In **My Tho** province, for example, medical courses have been opened for 109 hospital attendants, 500 first-aid workers, and more than 100 midwives.

Also in **My Tho**, last year nearly 200,000 patients were treated, 150,000 people were vaccinated against cholera and bubonic plague, and 7,000 women received pre-natal medical attendance or gynaecologic treatment. Lectures on measures against epidemics have been attended by 110,000 people.

In spite of the difficulties caused by the war, the civilian medical service in **Go Cong** has opened courses for 58 hospital attendants, and 4 others for 82 first-aid attendants. Combining Eastern and Western medicines, it has cured 142 patients and 2,150 civilians wounded by enemy bombs and shells. In addition, massive vaccination has been given to tens of thousands of people.

In our liberated zones

REVOLUTIONARY POWER FOUNDED

— Up to the beginning of February this year, People's Liberation Committees had been founded in 160 villages and 19 districts in *Western Nam Bo* (South Viet Nam proper).

Among them were 7 districts and 42 villages in *Ca Mau* province; 3 districts and 23 villages in *Can Tho* province; one district and 18 villages in *Vinh Long* province; 4 districts and 15 villages in *Rach Gia* province; 2 districts and 16 villages in *Soc Trang* province and 2 districts and 46 villages in *Tra Vinh* province.

After foundation, the revolutionary power declared abolition of the puppet administration in the aforesaid localities and has taken adequate measures aimed at improving the material and cultural life of the people.

Sincere thanks to our friends the world over

THE world people's drive for support to our current struggle was marked by a new upsurge on March 19 this year. This is the Viet Nam Day of Nation-Wide Resistance to US imperialism. Days and weeks of solidarity with the Vietnamese people were organized in every continent. International and regional organizations, people in the socialist, newly-independent and capitalist countries, and people engaged in independence struggle as well as progressive people in the United States held meetings, teach-ins, showed films and gave artistic performances to commemorate this historic day. They hailed our victories in the 1969 and collected money and medicines for our people. At various rallies, state and mass organization leaders in the socialist countries, well-known political and religious personalities and artists in other countries vehemently condemned Washington's stubborn and bellicose position and supported the stand of the NFL and the DRVN Government. They demanded that the US imperialists put an end to their aggression, unconditionally withdraw all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs without foreign interference. Similar demands were also couched in many petitions to the White House. People in different parts of the world sent to the NFL resolutions, letters and messages supporting our resistance to US aggression and hailing the big successes he had achieved since the 1968 Tet offensive. Mass, social and religious organizations worked out plans to step up their support to Viet Nam.

This movement has witnessed a new development with the recent days and weeks of solidarity. The world people have for years sided with us against US aggression. The Khmer people under the leadership of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Lao people conducted by the Lao Patriotic Front have united with us in the struggle against the US imperialist aggressors, the common enemy of the Indochinese peoples.

The Parties, Governments and peoples of Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the German Democratic Republic and the other socialist countries have made every possible effort to help our people defeat the US aggressors. Staunch political, moral and material support has been granted us by the peoples of other countries. The world movement for support to Viet Nam has grown stronger since the 1968 Tet offensive. It has effectively contributed to the great successes of the South Vietnamese people, forcing the US imperialists to unconditionally end the bombing of the whole territory of the DRVN and sit down with the NFL at the Paris conference table.

This sympathy, support and many-sided assistance has encouraged the 14 million South Vietnamese and increased their invincible strength. It has been a great contribution to their far-reaching victories, contribution that they highly value, and for which they express their sincere gratitude. As said NFL statement of March 17, 1969 on the occasion of the Viet Nam Day of Nation-Wide Resistance to US imperialism: "The just struggle of the South Vietnamese people has enjoyed the sympathy and support and ever more effective assistance of the peoples and governments of the socialist countries, of newly-independent countries and of the peace- and justice-loving peoples in the world, including progressive American people".

In spite of their bitter failures in both South and North Viet Nam and their isolation in the international arena, bellicose elements in US ruling circles have not yet given up their will of aggression on South Viet Nam. They still cling to the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration as the tool of their neo-colonialist policy and are piling up crimes against the South Vietnamese population in the hope of securing a strong position on the battlefield.

The mulish attitude and bellicose position of the US aggressors have roused violent indignation among progressive people in the world, including various strata of the American population. Of late 2,300 American businessmen of the "Business Executives move for Viet Nam Peace" said in a message to Nixon that they did not deem it the Americans' duty to go on supporting the Thieu-Ky-Huong regime which does not represent the masses and have suppressed democratic liberties in South Viet Nam.

It is but natural that the South Vietnamsse people and armed forces should chastise the US aggressors for their monstrous crimes. Since early Spring 1968, they have dealt them telling blows and won great successes, thus stepping up their resistance to US aggression.

More than ever, we have to overcome many difficulties and endure many sacrifices before our complete victory. But we are firmly convinced that progressive people around the world and in the United States will heighten their vigilance, denounce US plans for aggression and "peace negotiation" hoax, and enlarge the world people's front to support the Vietnamese people, thereby making an effective contribution to their total victory.

CUBAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO LAWYER NGUYEN HUU THO

Raul Valdes Vivo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba beside the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, on March 4 presented his credentials to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the NFL.

The presence of the glorious representative of the 7 million courageous Cuban people at this juncture is another manifestation of the iron-like will of the Cuban people to stand shoulder to shoulder with the 14 million South Vietnamese people in the common struggle against the US imperialist aggressors.

As Raul Valdes Vivo rightly said at the presentation ceremony: "The Cuban people have reserved and will reserve the affection and solidarity of a companion-in-arms for the South Vietnamese people whose organizer and leader is the National Front for Liberation". In his reply speech, the President Nguyen Huu Tho said:

"The entire Cuban people can believe that the struggle of Cuba is also the South Vietnamese people's struggle. With all their thoughts, sentiments and actions, the South Vietnamese people always stand by the side of the staunch Cuban people who are struggling against the US imperialists to defend their Fatherland".

WE STAND ON SIDE OF...

DPRK people

THE "Focus Rethina" manœuvres carried out by the Americans and their stooges in South Korea constitute a reckless and insane act. Far from showing their strength, they expose their weakened position, bewilderment and fear in face of the over-all growth of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the mounting struggle of the South Koreans against the rule of the US-lackeys and for the withdrawal of US troops from South Korea. If the American imperialists do not draw any lesson from their lamentable failure and rashly embark on a new war against the DPRK they will meet shameful defeat with unpredictable consequences.

Fighting against a common enemy, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces pledge to struggle shoulder to shoulder together with fraternal people and armed forces of the DPRK to frustrate all US dark manœuvres, provocations and new military adventures. We strongly condemn US imperialism and demand an end to all war provocations against the DPRK and the withdrawal of all US troops and weapons from South Korea.

The Vietnamese people, the peace- and justice-loving people the world over are determined to stand on the side of the Korean people. (GPA)

GDR people

This is an illegal act of the West German authorities backed by the American imperialists, a gross violation of international law on the status of West Berlin, and a premeditated provocation aimed at annexing the German Democratic Republic and changing the present situation in Europe, thus aggravating tension in this area. This is an impudent challenge to the GDR and the peace- and justice-loving people in the world.

...The South Vietnamese people and the National Front for Liberation fully support the correct stand taken by the GDR Government in vehemently protesting the West German authorities' decision to hold in West Berlin the next session of the Federal Assembly and the coming presidential elections, energetically demand that the West German authorities give up this plot and illegal act. The South Vietnamese people and the NFL unreservedly support the measures taken by the GDR to defend its sovereignty and security. (GPA)

The Canadian people demonstrating for the end of US aggressive war in Viet Nam and for negotiation with the South Viet Nam NFL.

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